

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are presented for consideration, with Claim 1 being independent.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and amended to correct minor informalities and improve their idiomatic English form. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' claimed invention from the cited art.

Editorial changes have been made to selected dependent claims, including changing the dependency of Claim 3 as suggested in paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

Initially, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth between the allegedly distinct inventions of Group I and Group II.

In the Office Action, it was alleged that the claim groups are distinct because they are related as a process for making and product made and because they have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification. These contentions are respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the amount of effort required by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office would be lessened by permitting all of the claims presently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of multiple applications, each consisting of the same disclosure, and each being subjected to substantially the same search, perhaps by a different Examiner on a different occasion, with the resultant burden on the Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the requirement for restriction and allow the claims presently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicants hereby affirm the election of Group I, Claims 1-10.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Arai '085. In addition, Claims 1 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Yamamoto '999. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' Claim 1 relates to an electroconductive device comprised of a pair of oppositely disposed electrodes and a luminescence layer and an electroconductive layer disposed between the electrodes. As claimed, the electroconductive layer comprises a mixture of a plurality of organic compounds which are mutually structural isomers having an identical ring structure and an identical rational formula but having structures different in the manner in which their atoms are linked, with the plurality of organic compounds including a major component/minor component ratio of 1/1 to 9/1.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, on page 7, lines 21-25 of the specification. In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, the electroconductive device provides high luminescence efficiency.

Arai relates to an organic electroluminescent device that includes an organic light emitting layer 4, an electron injecting and transporting layer 5 and an inorganic hole injecting and transporting layer 3 disposed between hole injecting electrode 2 and electron injecting electrode 6. Arai discloses that the organic layer is comprised of a conjugated polymer or a mixture of a conjugated polymer or copolymer with other suitable polymers (see column 4, lines 43-49).

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, however, Arai is not understood to teach or suggest, inter alia, the electroconductive layer comprising a mixture of a plurality of organic compounds which are mutually structural isomers having an identical ring structure and

an identical rational formula but having structures different in the manner in which their atoms are linked, as set forth in Claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

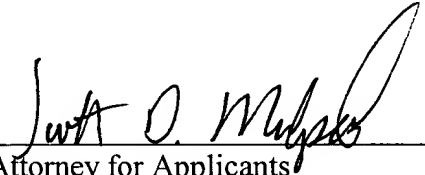
The Yamamoto patent relates to an electroluminescent element that includes an organic compound layer as a light emitting layer or a hole injection transport layer. As understood, Yamamoto discloses that the electroluminescent element can contain a thiophene polymer I or copolymer II or both. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Yamamoto fails to teach or suggest that the electroconductive layer contains a mixture of a plurality of organic compounds which are mutually structural isomers having an identical ring structure and an identical rational formula but having structures different in the manner in which their atoms are linked as set forth in Applicants' Claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2-10 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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